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Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-02
INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 SP-02 SS-15
USIA-15 IO-14 OMB-01 TRSE-00 SSM-05 DOE-11 SOE-02
ACDA-12 HA-05 MCT-01 EB-08 /141 W
----------070539 010715Z /17
R 010319Z MAR 78
FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6112
INFO AMCONSUL ALEXANDRIA
AMEMBASSY ANKARA
AMEMBASSY ATHENS
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY NICOSIA
AMEMBASSY BELGRADE
USMISSION SINAI

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E.O. 11652: NA
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SUBJECT: GOE VIEWS OF CYPRUS EVENTS

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SUMMARY. DURING MARATHON PEOPLES ASSEMBLY SESSION FEBRUARY 27, PRIMIN SALEM AND DEFMIN GAMASY PRESENTED OFFICIAL GOE VIEW OF CYPRUS EVENTS. PRESS PLAYED UP PALESTINIAN ANGLE (SEPTEL) BUT BULK OF STATEMENTS DEALT HARSHLY WITH CYPRIOTS. SUBSEQUENT PEOPLES ASSEMBLY STATEMENT DENOUNCED CYPRIOT GOVERNMENT ROLE BUT, LIKE SPEAKER'S, MADE NO SPECIFIC MENTION OF KYPRIANOU. MIN JUSTICE SKETCHED OUT LEGAL ARGUMENTS IN FAVOR OF EGYPTIAN ACTIONS THROUGHOUT. ELSEWHERE, FONMIN QUOTED THAT GREECE AND YUGOSLAVIA HAVE OFFERED MEDIATE DISPUTE. END SUMMARY.
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1. PRESENTING GOE OFFICIAL VIEW OF CYPRUS EVENTS, SALEM AND GAMASY MADE FOLLOWING POINTS: AAPSO ASSISTANT SECGEN HAD BEEN ASSURED BY CYPRIOT AUTHORITIES BEFORE CONFERENCE BEGAN THAT ADEQUATE SECURITY LAID ON. DESPITE ASSURANCES, SECURITY TOTALLY ABSENT: NONE IN HOTEL, NO EFFORT MADE TO APPREHEND KILLERS AT

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HOTEL OR EN ROUTE TO AIRPORT. CYPRIOT AUTHORITIES "MARKEDLY INDIFFERENT" TO INCIDENT; COMPLIED SUPINELY WITH TERRORIST INSTRUCTIONS (GAMASY SAID "CYPRIOT AUTHORITIES WILLFUL COLLUSION WITH ASSASSINS EVIDENT" FROM TV FILMS). CYPRIOTS WERE ATTEMPTING ONLY TO RID THEMSELVES OF TERRORIST PRISONERS AND UNSUCCESSFULLY BID PLO IN BEIRUT TO MEDIATE FOR HOSTAGES RELEASE.

2. WHEN HIJACKED PLANE LANDED IN CYPRUS, SALEM TELEPHONED CYPRIOT PRESIDENCY TO SAY "EGYPT SENDING PLANE TO HELP CYPRUS CHECK TERRORIST ACT. IT WAS CLEAR TO CYPRIOT AUTHORITIES THAT PLANE WAS MILITARY TRANSPORT. IT WAS ALLOWED TO LAND, REMAINED ON TARMAC ONE AND A HALF HOURS, WAS NEITHER ORDERED TO LEAVE NOR TOLD NOT TO PARTICI-PATE."

3. MEANWHILE, "ACTION" HAD BEGUN TO ALLOW HIJACKED PLANE TO FLY TO DAMASCUS "SO THAT KILLERS COULD BE DELIVERED TO PLO. IN VIEW THIS CYPRIOT ATTEMPT TO PROTECT TERRORISTS, COMMANDO CHIEF DECIDED TO STORM PLANE. . . RELEASE OF THE HOSTAGES WAS RESULT OF COM-MANDO ASSAULT AND NOT, REPEAT NOT, THE BARGAINING WITH THE TERRORISTS TO FREE THE HOSTAGES IN RETURN FOR RELEASE. ASSAULT RESULTED IN ARREST OF CRIMINALS, THUS UPHOLDING LAW AND JUSTICE AND RESISTING INTERNATIONAL TERRORISM." HOWEVER, CYPRIOT FORCES OPENED FIRE ON UNCLASSIFIED

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BACKS OF EGYPTIANS DURING ASSAULT. CYPRUS MUST PRO-DUCE REASONABLE EXPLANATION OF THIS ACT.

4. JUSTICE MINISTER TALAAT THEN ARGUED BEFORE PEOPLES ASSEMBLY THAT CYPRIOT DECISION ALLOW EGYPTIAN PLANE TO LAND MADE EGYPTIAN ACTIONS LEGAL. INTERNATIONAL LAW "ENSURES EGYPT OF ITS RIGHT TO DEFEND ITS NATIONALS AND TAKE REMEDIAL MEASURES IN REPLY TO CYPRIOT NON-FULFILLMENT OF DUTY. EGYPT DOES NOT CONSIDER ITS ACTIONS TO INVOLVE ANY INFRINGEMENT OF CYPRIOT SOVEREIGNTY OR INTERNATIONAL RIGHTS." SINCE EGYPTIAN COUNTERACTIONS "WERE IN KEEPING WITH RULES OF INTER-NATIONAL LAW, CYPRIOT AUTHORITIES ACTIONS WERE TO CONTRARY." IN ADDITION, "CYPRUS COULD NOT JUSTIFY FAILURE TO EXTRADITE KILLERS TO EGYPT UNDER INTERNATIONAL LAW" SINCE ARTICLE 2 OF CRIMINAL CODE (SIC) GIVES EGYPTIAN COURTS RIGHT TO TRY CRIME AGAINST STATE SECURITY. EVEN IN ABSENCE OF EXTRADITION TREATY, ACCORDING TALAAT, "COURTESY AND SOLIDARITY WHICH ARE PART AND PARCEL OF INTERNATIONAL LAW" DEMANDED TURNOVER OF KILLERS.

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5. ASSEMBLY STATEMENT. FOLLOWING PRESENTATIONS, PEOPLES ASSEMBLY ISSUED STATEMENT EXPRESSING STATEMENT OF SUPPORT FOR GOE INTERVENTION AT LARNACA AND ALSO FOR DECISION TO "REVISE" EGYPTIAN-CYPRIOT RELATIONS. STATEMENT DENOUNCED BEHAVIOR AND AGGRESSION OF CYPRIOT AUTHORITIES TOWARDS "EGYPTIAN PEACE FORCE" AND CONDEMNED FAILURE TO ARREST TERRORIST WHO TOOK LIFE OF SIBAI.
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6. GUMHURIYYA QUOTED FONMIN KAMEL BRIEFLY THAT GREECE AND YUGOSLAVIA HAVE OFFERED MEDIATE BETWEEN EGYPT AND CYPRUS. NO FURTHER DETAILS. KAMEL MET WITH GREEK AND YUGOSLAV AMBASSADORS FEBRUARY 27. EILTS

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